

Minutes
Delaware Council of Faith-Based Partnerships (DCFBP)
July 1, 2014
1-3 pm
Delaware State Housing Authority (DSHA)
18 The Green
Dover, DE 19901

Attendees: Jen Hill, Doug Gerdts, Flora McConkie, Kenny Foster, Max Wolf, Usman Sandhu, Jeanne Cashman.

Guests from Delaware State Housing Authority: Anas Ben Addi, Director; Matthew Heckles, Director of Policy and Planning; Cynthia Karnai-Crossan, Director of Housing Finance.

The meeting was called to order by Doug at approx. 1:15 pm.

Introductions of Council members and guests.

Presentations from Delaware Housing Authority. Create synergy with State agencies and the Council. Faith leaders and communities should be aware of DSHA programs. DSHA's mission is to provide -- and assist others to provide-- quality, affordable housing opportunities and appropriate supportive services to low and moderate income Delawareans. DSHA is a Cabinet-level agency, with over 130 employees, in six divisions: Administration, Community Relations, Housing Development, Housing Finance, Housing Management, and Policy and Planning. Their main partner is Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Over \$13 million in operating funds. No state funding; self-sufficient, operating as closely as possible to a private entity, though a state agency. Core services are rentals and home ownership.

Programs/initiatives include: Mortgage Loans, Emergency Mortgage Assistance (foreclosure assistance), Affordable Housing Services Directory, Referral List of Housing Counseling Agencies, Manufactured Housing Assistance, Homeowner Relief Hotline, *Kiss Your Landlord Goodbye!* campaign, Tax Credit for First-Time Home Buyers, and a pilot program for special needs housing (including youth aging out of foster care). See **www.destatehousing.com**.

With home ownership, children do better in school, adults are more civically engaged, and generational wealth is produced – along with tax deduction.

Delaware averages about 2,000 foreclosures a year. Foreclosure prevention has been focus at DSHA since 2008. Causes include job loss, underemployment, bad loans, etc. The longer home owners delay addressing the issue, the more difficult it becomes. DSHA has resources, counseling, education to assist – workshops, one-on-one counseling, budget reviews, loan modification programs, negotiation and mediation programs, etc.

Flora to work with Cynthia on event to share DSHA information with faith leaders, possibly similar to the recent DEMA event.

Approval of June minutes.

Report on Emergency Preparedness Workshop. Forty attendees. Governor invited each to introduce themselves. Governor pleased with attendance and expressed appreciation for faith communities. Suggested continued interaction and involvement, and indicated State leaders would like to hear from faith leaders.

Workshop highlighted in Governor's weekly message:

<http://news.delaware.gov/2014/06/20/governors-weekly-transcript-shoring-up-delawares-response-to-natural-disasters/>

Post-Workshop Survey (as of July 1st/three responses): Registration process 10/10. Meeting space 9/10. Timing 10/10. Presentations 9/10. Lunch 10/10. Materials 7/10. Respondents plan to implement or expand on their emergency preparedness plans. Respondents would refer other faith leaders to similar events.

Respondents indicated their interest level in other topics/events:

Prison Issues 10/10.

Foster Care 7/10.

Middle School Programs 8/10.

Emergency Preparedness 10/10.

Potential for annual event; consider dates for next year.

Suggestions for future event: Invite others to be involved – Red Cross, Salvation Army, etc. Use LDS/Mormon preparedness model. More on what we should do vs. what government does. Faith leaders as presenters. Female presenters. Brief presentations. Time for interacting/networking. Group activities/role playing. Stick to schedule. Sign-in sheet. Restrooms clearly marked. Recycling stations. Start with brief opening remarks and tour of DEMA, then presentations. Follow-up event could focus on developing a simple plan and/or identifying shelter resources in faith communities. Additional Council members should participate on planning committee for future events.

Brief discussions on other items:

Follow-up with DHSS. Council to focus on re-entry first, then pursue other issues (financial empowerment for re-entry and youth aging out of foster care, middle school programs for youth with disabilities, houses of worship available for student recreation, etc.). Council representatives to attend upcoming Re-Entry Council meeting.

Need for additional Council members. Jen to approach Hindu American Foundation regarding.

Council Funds. To be handled by Doug's church. Usman to send donation to Doug. Receipts to Doug for reimbursement.

Future meetings. To include touring Corrections facility.

Next meeting. Tuesday, September 2, 2014, 1-3 pm, Delaware Health and Social Services, New Castle. [Note: September meeting later cancelled due to lack of attendance.]

Meeting adjourned at approx. 2:55 pm.

Submitted by Flora McConkie, DCFBP Secretary, October 7, 2014.